

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06284 241540Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 MCE-00 AID-05  
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P 241450Z JUL 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6883  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS ATHENS 6284

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS PEPR, GR, CY, TU  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GREEK PRESS COVERAGE OF  
EMBARGO DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ATHENS 6240

1. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO PUBLIC GOG COMMENT,  
GREEK PRESS COVERAGE GAVE CONTINUED EMPHASIS OVER THE  
WEEKEND TO THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 20 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS  
ON THE EMBARGO (REFTEL). STORIES ALSO STRESSED THE THEME  
THAT THE SUBSEQUENT WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT HAILING THE DENK-  
TASH PROPOSAL WAS ISSUED ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT THE  
CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT'S REJECTION OF THE PROPOSALS WAS REACHING  
THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. OTHER THEMES INCLUDED THE NEW  
YORK TIMES' EDITOTIAL IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE EMBARGO  
AND PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE CLOSENESS OF THE PROJECTED  
SENATE VOTE.

2. WRITING IN LEFTIST OPPOSITION TA NEA, NEW YORK CORRESPON-  
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DENT EFSTATHIADIS CITED A SENIOR  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICIAL AS STATING THAT WASHINGTON DESIRED TO  
BE THE MEDIATOR IN BRINGING THE GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS  
TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE  
FIRST TIME THAT WAHSINGTON HAD EXPRESSED THE WISH TO PLAY  
A MEDIATING ROLE IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. "BUT  
THE CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCALLY PRO-TURKISH MANNER IN WHICH

WASHINGTON ACTED STANDS WITNESS TO HOW EXACTLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEANS TO UNDERTAKE THIS MEDIATOR'S ROLE," EFSTATHIADIS CONCLUDED.

3. COVERAGE OF THE ISSUE IN SUNDAY'S PAPERS STRESSED SENATOR PERCY'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO. PRO-GOVERNMENT AKROPOLIS AGREED WITH HIS VIEW THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES HAD PLACED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPROVING AMERICAN-TURKISH RELATIONS ON THE UNITED STATES RATHER THAN ON TURKET WHERE THE RESPONSIBILITY PROPERLY LIES.

4. MONDAY'S NEWSPAPERS STRESSED THE AMENDMENT WHICH SENATOR BYRD REPORTEDLY PLANS TO INTRODUCE. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS HERE THIS WOULD REQUIRE REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT EVERY SIXTY DAYS CERTIFYING THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE TOWARDS A CYPTUS SETTLEMENT.MOST PAPERS SAW THIS PROPOSAL AS AN OPENING ADMINISTRATION SALVO IN THE SENATE DEBATE ON THE EMBARGO, BUT DECLINED TO OFFER A FIRM PREDICTION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SENATE VOTE. TA NEA QUOTED A CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE AS SAYING THAT THE BYRD AMENDMENT AMOUNTED TO "THE SAME UGLY WOMAN WEARING A DIFFERENT DRESS."  
MILLS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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